

District Advisory Committee February 5, 2025 Minutes

Opening

District Advisory Committee Chair Jennifer Marinaccio called the meeting to order. School Board Member Mr. Ruben Colón; Dr. Carmen Balgobin, Superintendent; Dr. Matt Kuhn, Chief Technology Officer; Captain Todd Smith, Director of Safety and Security and Sarh Lux, Public Information Officer, were all in attendance.

Ms. Marinaccio introduced School Board Vice Chair Ruben Colon to bring greetings, The minutes from the December 4, 2024, DAC meeting were unanimously approved.

Superintendent Comments:

- Took part in the 2026 Teacher of the Year Jeremy Davies car presentation at Spruce Creek High School
- Introduced Miss Rose Downey, a senior at Spruce Creek High who has been a DAC member since her freshman year. Rose will be attending Duke University and recently was awarded a \$20,000 Coke Scholarship. More than 200,000 applications were submitted and were narrowed down to 150 scholars. After eight rounds of interviews, she was selected for this international scholarship. As a scholar she will have a life-long connection Coke and will have to attend seminars and continue to support the Coke values. Congratulations Rose!
- Graduation Rates- There will be a presentation on this at the March DAC meeting. VCS graduation rate has increased to 93.7% due to monitoring student growth and timely intervention
- Stem Bus- The second STEM bus will make its appearance within the next few months. This bus will be geared to accommodate secondary students
- State of School Address is taking place February 27. School Board members, leadership, administrators and partners in education will collaborate and celebrate our students. SALT students will also be in attendance.
- VCS Operations recently received District Administration Leadership Award 2025 Resilience Award - National recognition for our district's leadership in hurricane preparedness, student safety, and educational continuity.
- Testing Presentation will be scheduled for a future meeting

By-Laws Overview

Jennifer Marinaccio, DAC chair, reviewed the suggested revisions to the DAC [bylaws](#). The bylaws have been posted on the website for all DAC representatives to review. The bylaw revisions will be voted on at the April DAC meeting.

Safety and Security Presentation

Captain Smith, Safety and Security Director

- Reviewed safety procedures currently in place

- Single point entry, crime center, Centegix, Fortify FL, gaggle, mental health assistance, threat management, guardians in every school trained especially for threats
- Drills take place regularly
- Random screening is going well, safe zones in every classroom,
- Deputies have Live 911 access on their computers so they know exactly what is going on in real time
- K-9 Maverick – searched for firearms only
- Vape and metal detectors
- Narcan at every school
- Moving forward looking at weapons detection AI

Mental Health Programs

Jessica McIntyre, Coordinator, Mental Health Services

- Presented a [PowerPoint](#) on Mental Health Programs
- Collaboration & Growth includes:
 - V.A.P.E. Program – substance abuse, THC vapes
 - Resiliency Florida monthly campaigns taking place in the schools
 - Partnership with the Superintendents in our 7 circuit and the State Attorney working together to roll out a program on school violence and drugs across the circuit
- Working very hard to provide support to staff and students

Member Comments

If you get the opportunity to view the Cultuvue expo it is truly a wonderful experience. Multiple VCS students have been photographed and are on display

Port Orange Elementary will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary on February 22

New Smyrna Beach High will be hosting a chili cook-off on February 27 to benefit UNCF. Tickets are \$5

ITS is deploying 1,000 new computers and next month brand new copy machines will be replaced across the district. This summer a student refresh program will begin. Every summer 1/5 of the district will get new computers. A list can be found on ITS website.

Adjournment

The next District Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 5**, 5:15 p.m. at Deltona High School, Learning Commons. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.